

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14776 091540Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1302
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
JCS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

UNCLAS BONN 14776

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, GW
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 8 BUNDESTAG DEBATE: MOD LEBER'S
STATEMENTS ON US DEFENSE STRATEGY

REF: BONN 14746

1. REGARDING RECENT PRESS SPECULATION ON CHANGES IN US
DEFENSE STRATEGY, MOD LEBER SAID IN HIS 8 SEPTEMBER
BUNDESTAG SPEECH THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE IT
CLEAR MANY TIMES SINCE THE LONDON SUMMIT IN MAY THAT
WASHINGTON "REMAINS COMMITTED TO NATO STRATEGY AND TO
THE PRINCIPLE OF FORWARD DEFENSE". IN THIS CONTEXT,
LEBER READ ALOUD THE TEXTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S AUGUST
27 MESSAGE TO THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION AND OF
SECRETARY BROWN'S AUGUST 31 LETTER TO LEBER. READING
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PAGE 02 BONN 14776 091540Z

WAS GREETED WITH LOUD APPLAUSE. LEBER SAID
THESE STATEMENTS LEFT "NO DOUBT" REGARDING US COMMITMENT
TO ESTABLISHED NATO STRATEGY, AND HE SAID THE FRG WAS
"ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL" FOR THEM.

2. LEBER EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF
"GERMAN BLADES OF GRASS" BUT "OF THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR

COUNTRY". HE ADDED: "FOR US THESE QUESTIONS ARE NOT
THE OUTFLOW OF TACTICAL OR HYPOTHETICAL CONSIDERATIONS;
THEY AFFECT OUR EXISTENCE, AND THEY ARE THEREFORE THE
OPERATIVE BASIS FOR OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLIANCE".
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Message Attributes

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